

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment fails.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hartnett had amendments, 1285 with a note you want to withdraw those, Senator?

SPEAKER BAACK: They are withdrawn.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes.

CLERK: Senator Wesely would move to amend, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, the amendment that I have offered is in follow-up to Senator Beutler's and was somewhat contingent upon his, so I don't plan to pursue it, but the concept was to instead of provide for the early retirement of teachers to find a way to accommodate their continued participation in the school system by allowing them to work part time and not having a reduction of their benefits and, in fact, allowing them to draw on retirement benefits and then continue working in the system. It's kind of a complicated proposal so I don't want to get into it at this time since there's already an indication and desire to allow for early retirement. I really again would indicate my opposition to the concept of early retirement that is universal. It's not tied in just to the schools and the school systems or the teachers. I think it's a concept that we've maintained as a principle or I thought was a principle of our retirement system over the years. Obviously, the one area that we always could point to in the Legislature and people accuse us of not having any principles was at least in retirement we have some principles but we have principles now that evidently don't hold when it comes to making decisions and that's a shame and I would encourage the Retirement Committee to reevaluate those principles because, obviously, they don't hold any longer in terms of decision making process so if we're going to change, we're going to change I think across the board and you ought to take a look at those principles and if we want early retirement for the teachers, we ought to allow early retirement for everybody. It's a decision you just made, in my view, so when the state employees come in, the county employees come in, Omaha teachers come in and everybody else comes in, you ought to give them the same sort of benefit that you are now, evidently wanted to give to the general teacher population of